

REMARKS

Claims 21 through 60 are currently pending in the above-captioned application. In the Official Action dated September 7, 2004 (The "Final Action"), the Examiner objected to Claims 36, 37 and 59 as allegedly being informal, and rejected Claims 21-60 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as assertedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,385,620 to Kurzius et al. ("Kurzius"). Applicants' representative conducted a telephonic interview with the Examiner on January 28, 2005, after which Applicants filed a response to the Final Action, the response being received by the Examiner on February 3, 2005. The Examiner then issued, on March 8, 2005, an Advisory Action stating that none of the amendments set forth in Applicants' February 3 response would be entered because they allegedly raised new issues that would require further consideration and/or search. Nonetheless, the Examiner stated in the Advisory Action that Claims 21, 24-26 and 28 would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claims.

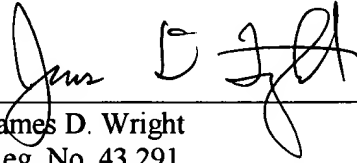
In view of the Examiner's statements, Applicants have resubmitted the amendments to Claims 21, 24-26 and 28 that were previously proposed in the February 3 response, and have further canceled all other previously-pending claims.

Though not specifically addressed by the Examiner in the Advisory Action, Applicants have further added one more dependent claim—Claim 138—that was previously proposed in the February 3 response. This claim pertains to the reciprocal nature of the matching process—that is, matching may involve assessing not only the fit of a first type of data file to a second type of data file, but also assessing the fit of the second type of data file to the first type of data file. No new matter is believed to have been introduced through the inclusion of these new claims or through the amendment of any other claim. Because this claim depends from Claim 21, which the Examiner indicated as being allowable, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 138 should also be allowable based on the limitations of Claim 21.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 21, 24-26, 28 and 138 of the present application are now in condition for allowance, based upon the limitations of Claim 21 and the further limitations contained within each dependent claim. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that these claims be allowed. Finally, Applicants request that the Examiner telephone or email the undersigned to resolve any such issue so as to expedite the prosecution of this application.

Applicants authorize the Commissioner to charge any fees which may be due for filing this Amendment and Response to Deposit Account No. 18-1215.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James D. Wright', is written over a horizontal line.

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